

NPS CULTURAL CONTEXTS WITH PARK THEMES

The significance of a historic property can be judged and explained only when it is evaluated within its historic context. Historic contexts are those patterns, themes or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning within prehistory or history made clear. Historic contexts can be local, state or national. A theme is a means of organizing properties into patterns based on elements such as environment, social/ethnic groups, transportation networks, technology, or political developments.

The National Park Service has developed a thematic framework for evaluating resources that is a comprehensive outline of United States history, prehistory and cultural endeavors. The cultural themes for Voyageurs are based on the larger thematic framework developed by the National Park Service. The national themes and park-specific themes are presented below.

I. **PEOPLING PLACES**

Park themes: Prehistoric Native American Occupation
Historic Native American Occupation
Early Settlement

II. **CREATING SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND MOVEMENTS**

Park theme: Recreational Activities

III. **EXPRESSING CULTURAL VALUES**

Park themes: Architecture
Landscape Architecture
Traditional Culture

IV. **SHAPING THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE**

V. **DEVELOPING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY**

Park themes: Fur Trade
Logging
Commercial Fishing
Mining
Hunting, Trapping and Blueberry Harvesting
Prohibition

VI. **EXPANDING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

VII. **TRANSFORMING THE ENVIRONMENT**

Park theme: Conservation Period

VIII. **CHANGING ROLE OF THE U.S. IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY**